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AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

FOR THE SONS OF LANDED PROPRIETORS.

[Our attention of late has been frequently called to the importance of the establishment of an Agricultural School for the education of farmers. We have had a number of applications from gentlemen wishing to obtain places for their sons, who having finished their collegiate course of studies, desire a situation where they may obtain a practical and scientific knowledge of farming. We find an article in the *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture* which we recommend to the notice of our readers; it contains some suggestions respecting the importance of "an agricultural education for the sons of landed proprietors" which although it may not be exactly suited to our country, yet contains some hints of importance. Will not some of our able correspondents take the subject into serious consideration and give us their views upon the expediency of an establishment of this kind for the benefit of the farming interest. J. B.]

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The ordinary education of the landed proprietors of this country is as complete as it can be effected by private tutelage and at public schools and universities. Accomplished in classical learning, literature, or the physical sciences, as each department of study may suit particular tastes, not a few of them have enhanced the literary and scientific character of the country, and some have even conferred lustre on it in the learned professions of medicine, law, or theology; and not to be outdone in the race of honorable distinction by their English compeers, many have participated in the academic honors of Oxford and Cambridge. Yet, strange to remark, anxious as landed proprietors certainly are to bestow a liberal education on their families, which is the best legacy they can leave to their younger sons, agriculture, which most materially affects the interests of themselves and their eldest sons, the very profession by which they are upheld in the high status of society they occupy, they almost entirely neglect, as if, after the acquirement of a superior education, a man should be ashamed of attending to the means of his subsistence. Is it not "passing strange," that any country gentleman should be unacquainted with farming, the very source of his livelihood, when all other classes of people, in learning their respective professions, whether learned or vulgar, serve apprenticeships and toil through life thereafter? It seems to be forgotten that landownership *is* a profession, that it is in the manner in which *it* is conducted, that the best interests of the country may be injured or promoted, and that it is a profession which requires as great capacity of mind to practice it aright as to conduct those large commercial and manufacturing establishments, whose importance is so much lauded. The comparison between them can in truth be pursued no farther; for, whilst commercialists conduct their business in person assiduously, landowners consign the guidance of their valuable estates to persons who, in too many instances, are ignorant of agriculture, and who, at any rate, cannot feel the same interest in their prosperity as the proprietors themselves. This allegation is made against landowners generally, though not indiscriminately sweeping; for we have the satisfaction of personally knowing landowners, members of the nobility as well as the gentry, who have made it a duty to acquire a knowledge of agriculture, and who, in consequence, manage their estates of themselves, or through competent factors, on the principles of the most approved practice. Those proprietors who entrust their estates to factors of known practical ability, adopt the best safeguard against the evils arising from their own want of knowledge.

There are many evils attending the neglect of farming by land owners. When called upon to take a share in the discussions or business of those interesting agricultural meetings which of late years have excited so much notice over the kingdom, the remarks or speeches of the land owners consist, with few exceptions, of apologies for not having attended sufficiently to agricultural subjects, and of excuses for want of practical knowledge; and, when it is their lot or ambition to become members of the legislature, how lamentable it is to find that, beyond every other class of representatives in Parliament, the landed interest know the least of what concerns themselves. They should know much more upon every subject connected with agriculture as an art, as being the most influential interest in the state, or the laws affecting the different branches of it, than mere tenants, whose education and means of observation must be comparatively limited. Yet the tenantry are frequently left to fight their own battles on public questions.

A greater evil exists in consigning the management of their valuable estates to the care of men who have perhaps acquired an intimacy with the quill, and the blandishments of their own tables, but who have neglected the guidance of the plough, and the unwearying attention required at the feeding-in board. Want of knowledge in proprietors may only personally affect themselves, but the appointment of incompetent factors cannot fail to affect the fortunes and happiness of numerous families. The nature of the legal profession, in which too many factors are brought up, predisposes their minds to carping at quibbles and litigiousness; which, whenever a farmer discovers, or thinks he discovers, in the factor, he withdraws his confidence from him, and places himself in a position of self-defence. Both are ever after prepared for disputation, and disputes inevitably ensue. And how can any other result be anticipated? How can a farmer hold "sweet converse" with a man who cannot understand his discourse, and it is only as a farmer that a tenant has occasion to converse with the factor at all? In these circumstances, when disputes do arise between the factor and the tenants, the proprietor, who is unwilling, or what is worse, and more likely to be the case, unable to interfere, leaves their settlement to him who commenced them; and who, to gain his point over the tenant, persuades his master, by flattering his prejudices, to refrain from interference; and, in the end, contrives to place the proprietor in the most disagreeable position with his tenants. The probable result of this cunning policy is the degradation of the proprietor into a scape-goat for the sins of the factor. Or, stopping short of actual litigation, the factor may refer the settlement of the dispute to expensive arbitration. In either case, the weaker party, the tenants, are sure to be most injured, and, it may be, eventually ruined. The proprietor, instead of being the natural protector of his tenants, is thus converted into their opprersos.

By this train of argument, we do not maintain that factors should be ignorant of law, of business, or any other species of knowledge; but what we assert is, that they should be thoroughly versant in agriculture. Without that essential knowledge, we would not entrust a factor with the management of an estate, although he possessed the most amiable disposition. That knowledge, and no other imparts the faculty of looking at all agricultural matters in the right light. By it he will know what covenants of the lease are applicable to the peculiarities of every farm, or the circumstances of the tenant to whom it is let. No disputes will then arise about miscropping. He will easily discover whether the progressive or retrograde condition of the tenants arises from their own industry or negligence, or from circumstances connected with the state or situation of the farms themselves. He will regulate his conduct accordingly, by encouraging the industrious and skilful, reproving the indolent, or amending the unfavorable circumstances of the farms. Such a man's opinion will greatly influence that of the tenantry, and community of sentiment will produce mutual kindliness of intercourse between them.

Every land owner, who resides in his mansion-house in the country, must have as much land in his own possession as to make what is familiarly termed a "home farm." Corn, hay, and straw will be required for the horses; green food throughout all the seasons must be provided for the dairy cows; fowls and dogs must be supported; butcher's meat must be regularly supplied in the best condition; and the whole domestic establishment must be maintained. To effect all this, two hundred acres of arable land, besides lawns and paddocks, are required. A manager for all this establishment must be procured. Another evil arises from the appointment of this functionary, He becomes proud in his new place, because he is in the service of a laird; overbearing, because he knows he is the only one acquainted with the management of land; important, because he finds himself purveyor for the whole establishment, and could starve the garrison at any time to a surrender; haughty, because disposing of a few unnecessary articles from the farm, he becomes the bearer, for a time, of a little loose cash. The temptations of his office become too strong for his virtue, he aggrandizes

himself and distributes hush-money liberally; at length his peccadillos are discovered, and he for ever after becomes unfit for a farm steward to any other proprietor or farmer.

When landlords have no knowledge of farming, their taste for the country usually declines. The sports of the field may detain them on their estates for the season, but are too rough and fatiguing to entice them to remain throughout the year. Without the excitement of field sports, their life is nothing but a monotonous scene, and the same society at length becomes irksome to them. They leave their demesnes with partial disgust, and wander about in foreign lands, or settle down somewhere far removed from their patrimonial inheritance. This we consider an evil; for we do not agree with Mr M'Culloch, that it is of no importance to a country where the income derived from its land is spent. We are quite sure the small tradesmen of every class derive sensible benefits from the expenditure of the contiguous proprietors, and when the latter are absent, they soon feel that source of profit dried up. But, on the other hand, we do not bewail the absence of proprietors so lamentably as our Irish neighbors. Good farming proceeds, and laborers are employed, by the enterprising tenantry in their absence; and, in as far as regards the substantial improvement of the country, the claims of the landowners in the participation of the honor is little, compared with those of the tenantry.

Now the effects of all these evils, we venture to assert, may be most effectually remedied by the sons of landed proprietors, who will themselves become landowners, acquiring a thorough knowledge of farming in their youth, as a necessary branch of practical education, and the management of their estates will then be felt a desirable gratification, not a task. Proprietors would then be qualified to select and appoint competent factors,—to judge of the fulfilment of the factor's duty of impartial superintendence,—and to convince themselves, by personal observation, that their tenantry receive substantial justice and protection. They would then be competent to select farm-stewards to manage the home farm under their own directions, and to keep them in check by commanding them to render an account of their intromissions at the moment, and not at the protracted periods of terms. They would then discover there is not a more rational, pleasing, or interesting study than the science of agriculture, and its practical application, nor one which can be so well combined with those manly sports and amusements in which it is the pride of our country gentlemen to excel. They would then have no temptation to reside abroad, but would discover that a knowledge of the minutiæ of farming creates a daily increasing interest in field operations, and the cultivation of stock. A personal acquaintance with their tenants would then open a wide field of human nature for their observation; and this ample field to glean from, in connexion with the facts acquired in their own practice, would supply them with cogent arguments and illustrations on all subjects connected with agriculture, whereby their sentiments would command respect in every public assembly.

Where is all this important knowledge to be acquired? It is to be acquired like every other species of knowledge, by observation; in the operations of nature, as displayed in the field of art. Is this question asked in a country, whose proud boast is to possess more enterprising, educated, and well informed farmers, than perhaps any other country in the world? In all the best managed districts, where we mean the mixed husbandry is practised, or the culture of stock and crop are combined, there are farmers well qualified to impart instruction in their profession, as well as possessing such cultivated minds as to render them valuable companions. A two years' residence with an agreeable and intelligent farmer, who practises the raising of corn with the breeding and management of cattle and sheep, and putting the hand to every kind of work, could not fail to impart to young men of ordinary capacity, a competent knowledge of farming. Such a tuition we consider absolutely necessary for the eldest sons of our landed proprietors, who mean to reside in their own country, and enact the part of landowners; but it may be also profitably extended to those younger sons, who may turn their thoughts to the New World, as the surest means of success in any undertaking connected with the culture of the soil, or the rearing of the domesticated animals, in which they may embark. Their interests will be promoted by studying agriculture effectually, before they embark in their migratory undertakings. No proprietors' sons need be ashamed to receive instruction from, or sit down at the tables of, such men.

We are entitled to speak confidently on this subject; for the foundation of our practical knowledge of agriculture was laid by an intelligent farmer, and most agreeable companion, in perhaps the best county for farming in Scotland; and never since have we had cause to consider the time misspent. The facilities are evidently greater in Scotland than in any country we know, for young gentlemen acquiring a practical knowledge of agriculture, almost under the eye of their friends and relations.

Should these remarks attract the attention of those country gentlemen who may feel inclined to profit by them, we can furnish them with the names of some of the most eminent farmers who have been in the habit of taking pupils; and leave it to their own discretion to choose the most eligible situation.

But we think the system of tuition might be beneficially extended. Most farmers, we apprehend, are not quite competent to teach the science of agriculture in connexion with its practice. Suppose, then, an extensive farmer has a large house, capable of containing a number of pupils, not exceeding twenty. That number, we conceive, to be enough for successful and comfortable tuition. Let this house be subdivided into comfortable sleeping apartments, a large dining-room, a large drawing-room, and a large class-room, fitted up partly as a library, and useful, also, as a reading and writing apartment. Let a tutor of competent acquirements be appointed to take the immediate charge of the pupils, both within and without doors. He should be competent to teach the application of chemistry, although we are not so sanguine as most people of the utility of this science to agriculture. He should teach the application of the principles of mechanics, in order that the principle on which any implement operates may be comprehended—the application of the principles of hydraulics, that the principles of draining, embanking, and constructing reservoirs for water, may be easily understood. He should teach botany, to enable young farmers to distinguish soils by their natural vegetation; and particularly the physiology of plants, that the culture of plants of whatever kind may be in conformity with appropriate soil and situation. Also geology, that the substrata or subsoils, on which soils rest, may obtain due regard. Meteorology should be studied, in order to be able to anticipate the changes of the weather. The anatomy and physiology of animals are also requisite for him to teach, that the good points of live stock may be duly appreciated. And, above all, he ought to be acquainted with the practice of agriculture; for, although the farmer himself will no doubt undertake to teach this department of the system, yet unless the tutor also understands it, he cannot so successfully demonstrate the application of science to the operations of practice. It may, at first, be difficult to find a tutor so amply qualified for the task; but as the practice of agriculture would most likely be the only department in which he would be deficient, he could, in the course of two years, acquire that knowledge as easily as any of the pupils.

With colloquial prelections and discussions in the house, at stated hours, so as not to interfere with the hours of labor in the fields, and with demonstrations in the fields, whilst the labor was in progress, a vast mass of useful information would, in a short time, be conveyed to, and acquired by, the pupils. It is presumed the pupils had already acquired, at school, or college, the elementary principles of all these sciences, besides mathematics. Such a house should be situate on a large farm of not less than six hundred acres, on which the mixed husbandry is practised; that is, the growing corn with the breeding and rearing of cattle and sheep.

The system might be extended still farther. It will scarcely be possible to find a sufficient number of large farms on which such establishments could be founded, or of intelligent farmers to conduct them; as the mixed system of husbandry cannot be successfully carried on, on a very small farm, or by small farmers. This difficulty might be obviated by the erection of a large house in a convenient village, in the neighborhood of which, intelligent farmers held farms. The tutor himself could engage the house, and draw the emoluments, and give premiums to the farmers, for permission to the pupils to inspect and witness all the operations.

We think such establishments would be conducted much more satisfactorily on private speculation, than under the guidance of any society, or public commission. Both the farmer and tutor would be stimulated by their own interests for their success, and competition would in time sharpen the stimulus still more keenly. Let any farmer, who has the requiste accommodation and qualification, begin the experiment with adequate appliances, and he will soon find customers. Like a coach or a steamboat starting on a new line of communication, his establishment will attract pupils; whereas, if he wait until the demand for such establishments rouse him into action, he may have to wait as long as the wagoner had for the assistance of Hercules.

CULTURE OF THE MULBERRY TREE AND THE TREATMENT OF SILKWORMS.

Not very many years have elapsed since the project of introducing the silkworm into this country was seriously taken up by several scientific persons; and the probability of its becoming eventually a source of wealth was warmly discussed. Gradually, however, the ardor of these projectors was found to cool, and the matter fell to the

ground; and was soon as little spoken of, as if an enterprise had been meditated which sensible men ought to disavow. Notwithstanding this implied reflection on the good sense of the supporters of the plan, a few gentlemen shortly after might be found scattered through England, who still cherished the conviction that the introduction of this insect was perfectly feasible. They planted mulberry trees and bred silkworms as an innocent source of amusement; and to this day they continue to occupy their spare time in trying experiments on a limited scale, on the best modes of bringing up their favorites; but if the project was eagerly received here, in Ireland it was hailed with enthusiasm as a certain mode of realizing a fortune. The ardent imagination of the Irish easily overleaped the barriers which inexperience or want of capital threw in the way; and for any one not to have implicit faith in the silkworm speculation, was looked on as a mark of meanness of spirit, or of total disregard to personal advancement. A joint-stock company was even proposed, and a vast number of names were marked down for shares; but when the day of paying the first instalment came round, the absentees were found to be so abundant, "that the company dissolved itself," as a wag afterwards remarked, "even before it was formed." The zeal of individuals was but little manifested in mulberry plantations or silkworm nurseries. One person only showed that he had been perfectly serious in his enthusiastic advocacy of the enterprise; he planted some thousands of the trees, and when we passed through some dozen or fifteen years ago, we saw the plantations in a most flourishing condition. The Earl of Kingston it was who had given this proof of his being serious in the silkworm project; and even to the last, we believe he spoke with every appearance of being thoroughly persuaded of the possibility of the plan. Both in this country and in Ireland, the great objection was that the climate was too severe for so delicate an insect as the silkworm. The slightest variations of cold and heat were known to affect it; and sudden changes were frequently found to cause its destruction; modern discoveries have proved this notion to be hastily assumed, and perfectly erroneous. The insect is now known to be capable, with proper management and due precaution, of supporting our climate; and it is with the intention of showing the truth of this important fact to our readers, that we have determined to lay before them some valuable information which has but lately come to light.

The source from which we derive this information, is a treatise by the Chinese themselves, which has been lately translated and given to the public in France. When we consider the acknowledged advancement of the Chinese in the arts and sciences, evidenced by their knowledge of printing—of the mariner's compass—of gunpowder, and many other curious discoveries, long before the inhabitants of Europe, it is a matter of wonder that their literature has not been more carefully studied, and the results of such studies made public. All that we have until lately known of the Chinese, and their habits, manners, customs, and knowledge, has come at first through the early missionaries, and next through the embassies sent over from this country. A third spring of information has now been opened; and we are not over sanguine, in predicting that a most important stream of curious knowledge will be found to flow from it. Should it be asked, how it happens that this particular juncture has had the merit of making public the contents of a Chinese work, we answer, that it is the same cause which, in the days of Perseus, caused the Roman parrots, when hungry, to salute their mistresses in the Greek words they had been taught, namely, self-interest, a most prolific source of research and invention. Thus it was that the work was translated.

The production of silk, at the present day, in France, amounts to a value of more than 60,000,000 francs a year; which is, however, quite insufficient for the consumption, as the foreign trade alone reaches 50,000,000 francs a year. Silk is one of the principal products of China: for not only is it used to a great extent in the fabrication of their clothes, but a vast quantity is exported in the raw state, as well as in the shape of fabricated articles. For forty centuries have they devoted their attention to study, in its minutest details, the rearing of the worm which furnishes them with this source of their national wealth; and as a natural consequence, this long experience, always stimulated by the sense of self-interest, has caused them to discover a crowd of attentions, of proceedings, and of practices, most likely to procure for them certain and advantaous produce.

The missionaries were at once struck with the importance of these practices to the European cultivator of the silkworm; and they determined to mark down some of their modes of treatment, for the benefit of their countrymen. Two treatises were drawn up, and afterwards published in France. One of them, by Father d'Entrecolles, gives the extract of an old Chinese work respecting the treatment of silkworms; and the other, composed by Father d'Incarville (or rather, from notes left by him,) describes the treatment given to three other species of worms, which the natives designate "wild silkworms," because their nature requires that they should be permitted to live at full liberty on the trees from whence they take their food. Some of the methods of treatment described by d'Entrecolles, were not long ago put in practice by M. Camille Beauvais, a large breeder of silkworms at Senart. He found them to be most serviceable, and most certain and faithful in their results; but above all, he found that the adoption of the Chinese treatment was of wonderful efficiency in preventing accidents, which before had dreadfully puzzled and annoyed him.

As the abridgment of a work is always incomplete in details, M. Beauvais thought that it would be important to have the original Chinese work translated. He applied to the Minister of Commerce on the subject, and laid before him the importance of the case. M. Passy was at the time minister; and he applied, in his turn, to M. Stanislas Julien, as the first Chinese scholar in France, or perhaps in Europe. He directed this eminent *savant* to undertake the task; and M. Martin (du Nord,) who succeeded to the Ministry of Commerce, made the work complete, by desiring M. Julien also to translate the Chinese work on the culture of the mulberry tree, which is always annexed to the work on the treatment of silkworms. M. Julien undertook this arduous task; and has just given to the public a translation of the two treatises, of rare precision and clearness. To this has been added, Father d'Incarville's treatise on the wild silkworms; and the whole has been published at the royal printing office. The French scientific men speak of the work as containing a vast quantity of useful details; and they declare that it will be the means of greatly increasing the wealth of France. Without going the whole length of their sanguine anticipations, we can see that the information thus given is highly important, and that it may be of great value to this country as well as to France. One peculiarity of the work is, that the Chinese have followed no fixed plan; there is no succession of ideas in natural logical order in the Chinese writings. Down they put whatever thought occurs to them; satisfied, apparently, like the sybil of old, with having marked it down, but totally regardless of its fate afterwards. It might be a curious question to discuss the reason of this want of order; whether it arose from habit, or from some defect of organization: this, however, is beside our present purpose; we only desire to speak of the works before us. In considering them, it will not be found an easy task to place all in proper order. The little treatise by Father d'Entrecolles will be found of use as a sort of guide; but as it may not be practicable to obtain this work, we purpose culling from the translations some of the facts which strike us as useful and singular.

The silkworm, when it has just burst into life, is at first a little black caterpillar, about the length and thickness of an ant. In this state, its growth is so rapid, that after twentyfive or thirty days it has arrived at a size some hundreds of times more considerable. It then spins its cocoon, and is transformed into the chrysalid form; it emerges from thence a gay butterfly, engages in the work of generation, lays its eggs, and dies. The care of the Chinese follows the insect in all the phases of its short existence, without losing sight of it a single instant. The rapidity of its development as caterpillar, requires that it should several times get rid of its skin, and replace it by a larger covering. Every one of these changes constitutes a perilous crisis in the insect's existence; because it then remains without movement, and as if benumbed, during the period that nature urges on her handiwork.

It is easy to conceive, that the temperature, the food, and treatment, ought to be different for the insect when approaching its state of torpidity, from those which are most beneficial to it when in its time of health and vigor. The first and grand provision, therefore, for successfully rearing a season's insects, ought to be, to obtain a collection which, born at the same time, and under the same circumstances, shall be endowed with constitutions of like vigor, in order that the changes of their activity, of their torpidity, and of their final transformation, shall arrive simultaneously or nearly so. It is almost impossible to picture to one's self the multitude of cares which the Chinese devote to this fundamental condition. They commence their attention in the very choice of the butterflies destined to produce the eggs, rejecting such members of the two sexes as are born amongst the first or the last, and making use only of the intermediate ones; and even using their discretion in putting together, for the work of generation, those insects which their experience shows them are best suited to each other. Next the eggs become the objects of their solicitude. Here also they cast away the first and the last which are produced; and they pay great attention to having the batch equally distributed over the paper on which they contrive that the laying should take place. They thus avoid all heaping of the eggs, which would, when the hatching was concluded, place the insects in unequal circumstances; or if the eggs should, notwithstand-

ing their precautions, be heaped on each other, they reject the mass altogether as ineligible for their purpose. Afterwards, they preserve these eggs with a thousand precautions, causing them to undergo various washings and other preparations, before the moment when the insect is about to burst into life.

So great is their ability in managing the education (if we may so term it) of the silkworm, that they generally contrive that all the insects should come from the eggs in the same day. Here again they reject the precocious and the tardy ones, in order to retain and bring up only those of the middle class. Having procured the fulfilment of this principle of original simultaneousness, they make every exertion to maintain all the phases attendant on the insect's existence. The cleverness of the Chinese is such, as to enable them to reduce the period of these changes, at most, to twentyfive, or even twentythree days: whilst our unskilfulness obliges us to prolong the period to thirty or thirtyfive days, to the serious detriment of the silk produced; for the Chinese have ascertained this important fact to be true, that the quantity of silk produced by the worm, is less in proportion to the length of time that it remains in the caterpillar form—the longer it remains, the less is the produce; and the rapidity of the reduction is enormous. To make this position clear, let us suppose that a number of worms, which have been developed in twentyfive days, have given twentyfive ounces of silk; if they remain, through any want of nourishment or necessary care, in the caterpillar state for twentyeight days, the amount of silk produced will not be more than twenty ounces: and should they delay to the thirtieth day, not more than ten ounces will be given. This is not only a very curious fact, but of great importance in a commercial point of view, and well worthy our serious attention. The Chinese have been long aware of it; and hence they deem no care too great which will hasten the birth of the insect. We must also look with admiration on the minute and delicate attentions with which they regulate the insect throughout. They are particularly cautious never to detach the eggs from the papers on which they have been deposited, to place them in heaps, as is so unreasonably practised in France, but they leave them their separate station and their hold on the surface, both which are found to be favorable to a speedy hatching. They also take care never to handle, or even to touch with the end of a pair of pincers, the little worms when they are born, in order to place them on the mulberry leaves: they would fear to run the risk of tainting them. How different is the practice in Europe, where it is quite a matter of daily occurrence to detach the eggs from the paper and place them in heaps: afterwards they are tied up in linen and transported to a distance. May not this be the cause of those frequent mal-formations which appear in the European silk-nurseries, and which occasion such tremendous losses afterwards? a circumstance be it observed, never seen amongst the Chinese. Their practice is, to gently place on the leaves the papers on which the worms have come into existence, in order that they may of themselves descend and take their food; nor do they place within their reach entire leaves at first, but little morsels, cut very neatly and scattered through a small sieve, in order that they may be distributed uniformly and in proportion to the number and the age of the worms. The quantity given at each repast is exceedingly small; and the increase is made in the number of repasts, but never in the mass of food given at each. The practice, we may remark, is founded on just principles; and the proofs of its efficiency are seen every day in our farms in this country, where cattle are found to thrive best on small and frequent repasts; not only because such are most easy of digestion, but because the animals eat more eagerly, and with a better relish, their food, when fresh, than trampled on, or tainted by their breath, when given in large quantities.

It would be an endless task to follow the Chinese through all their minute details, the influence of which, however, must be exceedingly great on the silk produced. Their treatment of the cocoons —their proceedings with regard to their silk crop— and their mode of winding the thread, are exceedingly curious. Our limits will not permit us to delay much longer; we shall, therefore, only add an interesting fact or two before we close. The Chinese use two sorts of artificial food for their silkworm; one of these is the leaf of a tree called *tche*, and a plant which bears the title of *Ouo-kin*: these are employed when the mulberry tree has not yet pushed forth its leaves, or when there is a scarcity of them. What these two productions are we have no means of ascertaining; that they are used throughout China for silkworms is certain, for mention is made of them in an old Chinese almanac, apparently intended for the working classes. The *tche* tree is also noticed by d'Entrecolles, who describes it as a prickly tree, which grew on exposed and lofty situations, and had a fruit like pepper. In the work translated by M. Julien, a rude sketch is given of the tree; but so vague is the outline, that we are unable to assign it to any particular class. The same incertitude exists as to the *Ouo-kin*. Remusat identified it with the wild chicorry; while in the *Amœnitates Exoticæ* of Kœmpler, it is suggested that it resembles our lettuce; it surely will be worth while to try both plants, and judge by the manner in which the silkworms receive them. The Chinese also employ, in feeding the worms, mulberry leaves gathered towards the end of the preceding season; these they dry and reduce to powder; and having lightly sprinkled the fresh leaves, they scatter it gently over them. The worms are always found eager to feed on it; and one advantage of it is, that it can be used at all times. Rice is also found to answer. It is first husked and then boiled by steam; this is then ground, and the flour is given to the worms. A small sort of pea, after being first allowed to germinate a little, is also employed; and all these preparations are said to render the silk stronger and more abundant. All these expedients are favorable to the introduction of the silkworm into England, which the Chinese mode of treatment proves to be perfectly practicable.

The long experience of the Chinese has made them aware of the fact, that the artificial education of silkworms requires a succession of different temperatures, suited to the different changes of their existence; and that, at the same time, the air which they inhale ought to be constantly purified of their perspiration, their evacuation and the bed of leaves on which they are placed. To effect this, they have found it necessary to erect close buildings, where an artificial increase or diminution of heat can be given when required, and where fresh air is constantly admitted. They have also discovered that these transitions of temperature must be almost insensible; and all their skill and ingenuity are taxed to accomplish this desirable object.

The Chinese author enters into a most minute description of the structure, materials, and situation of a silkworm nursery. He gives an account of the mode of heating it; and at great length details the form and use of the different instruments and utensils required in the concern. We do not intend following him in these details, curious as they certainly are; we shall only mention one circumstance connected with the heating of the nursery, which will show to what extent their cares are given. In addition to their scientific modes of maintaining the exact temperature beneficial to the worms, they employ what they deem the best indicator of a proper equilibrium, and even superior to a thermometer—this is the woman who takes care of the worms, and who is called their *mother*. This personage is clad in a single thin vestment, in order that her sensibility to cold or heat may be constantly awakened. These women are considered persons of importance; and whether from organization or habit, can at once detect the slightest change of temperature.

It is owing to this judicious use of air and light (which we should have mentioned is particularly dwelt on,) that the Chinese are quite ignorant of those dreadful epidemics caused by mould, which in France makes its appearance on the bodies of the worms, in even the best regulated nurseries. In Italy also it is a matter of notoriety, that a vast quantity of worms perish every year from a similar disease: it is to be hoped, that from the present time the evil will be materially diminished. The best plan of a nursery yet tried in France, is one designed and erected by M. Darcet for M. Beauvais, of whom we have already spoken. This plan is considered, by some cultivators of silkworms, as most efficient; while others declare that it is little superior to a common workshop. The Chinese treatise shows that in many respects it is founded on wrong principles; and we may soon expect to hear that some modifications in its structure have taken place.

From what we have stated of the contents of the Chinese treatise, it may be seen that the cultivation of the silkworm is perfectly easy in this country. The difference of climate has been deemed by some scientific men as an insuperable bar; but this objection is taken away by the work, which establishes the fact, that the greatest produce of silk in China takes place in the central provinces, lying between 25 deg. and 35 deg. of north latitude. Thermometrical observations have also proved that the mean temperature of the northern and southern provinces of China differs but little from that of Provence in France, the winters being somewhat more severe, and the summers a little hotter. The work also shows, that the cultivation of the silk worm was carried on to an enormous extent in the most northern provinces of China, and we have no reason to suppose that the cultivation has been discontinued. Nor is it at all necessary that these silkworms should be reared in vast quantities or in large buildings; if this was necessary, how could the Chinese peasants pay their taxes, which are generally given in silk? The population of the country being exceedingly great, the land has been for ages divided into very small holdings; indeed, to this cause only can we attribute the declaration of Barrow and other travellers, that the appearance of the country is rather that of a vast collection of gardens, than that of an agricultural district. The

philosopher Meng-Tsu, who lived in the fourth century before the Christian era, says "that of the portion of land allotted to each family, it is sufficient to plant the twentieth part with mulbury trees, to enable the family to clothe themselves;" and since then, the tax imposed on each peasant's family is generally paid by a certain number of bushels of grain, a fixed quantity of silk stuffs, and some ounces of silk thread. This proves incontestably that each family rears worms to clothe themselves, as they cultivate the fields with their hands to feed themselves. Hence we may reasonably infer, that the methods prescribed in the Chinese treatise are equally applicable to private nursories on a small scale; indeed, we might go much farther and say, that the great establishments are the exceptions, rather than the cottage of the husbandman; for as the work was drawn up for the general instruction of the nation, can we suppose that the writers had not in view the circumstances and condition of those for whom the work was intended? And as the vast majority of the inhabitants are of moderate means, ought we not to believe that the work was chiefly written for them, rather than for rich capitalists possessing large establishments?

We feel convinced that this branch of industry can easily be introduced into this country; and we do not deem the day far distant, when it will prove a source of wealth to thousands. Should our remarks lead to this desirable result, it will certainly be a source of great gratification to us; should we fail to excite public interest, we shall still have the consolation of thinking that we have faithfully discharged onr duty.—*English publication.*

REMARKS ON PURCHASING A HORSE.

My neighbor Tyson, having occasion to purchase a horse for hard and immediate work, I advised him not to buy under five years of age. He yesterday took me to see a horse, for which he had partly agreed, warranted sound and five years old. On examining the mouth, I inquired of the owner if he would warrant him five years old? He answered, "he is *coming* five." "Yes," I replied, "and will be so, for nearly two years to come; the fact is, he is a three year old colt." This common trick reminds me of a butcher I once knew, who, when he had old beef for sale would spread his hand upon it, and declare it was under five, meaning it was under *four fingers and a thumb.*

Few persons, even amongst those to whom the knowledge ought to be indispensable, are acquainted with the mode of judging of the age of a horse by the teeth. As the lesson can be committed to memory in five minutes, I copy it from my memorandum book, asking for it an insertion in your valuable Cabinet.

How to form a judgment of the age of a horse by his teeth.

At two years old, the horse sheds the two middle teeth of the under jaw. At three years old, he sheds two other teeth, one on each side of those he shed the year before. At four years old, he sheds the two remaining, or corner teeth. At five years old, the two middle teeth are full, no longer hollow, as all the others are; and the teeth have penetrated the gums. At six years old, the four middle teeth are full, the corner teeth only remaining hollow: the tusks are sharp, with the sides fluted. At seven years old, the corner teeth are full, the tusks longer and thicker, and the horse is said to be *aged.*

Note. It is not meant that exactly at the periods above mentioned these changes take place in the horse; much depends upon his constitution; whether he be a late or early foal; also upon the manner in which he has been reared, as to food and shelter, &c. The corner tooth too, might remain a little hollow after the age of seven, but the appearance is still very unlike the mere shells, which they are, at the age of six. AN OLD FARMER.

[*Far. Cabinet.*

ON SMUT IN CORN, WHEAT, &c.

In *The Cultivateur* of last year, there is a curious article on "Smut in Corn," from the pen of M. Philippar, Professor of Agriculture in the Normal School of Versailles. He declares that smut is a "parasite plant, belonging to the mushroom tribe, of the genus *Uredo.*" The article is neatly written, and does honor to the talents of the young professor. The opinion adopted and propagated by M. Philippar has been generally received as correct by the writers who have preceded him. The works of MM. Tillet and Tessier on this subject are well known to agriculturalists in France. M. Benedict Prevost, and M. de Candolle, have also written on "Smut in Corn;" and they have all asserted that it was a kind of mushroom; this opinion is now controverted by M. Poiteau, who has lately written in opposition to the views of the above-named authors. He addresses himself particularly to M. Philippar; not because there was any thing to blame in that gentleman's work more than the other writers, but because, being the last who took pen in hand, he may be supposed to have illuminated the subject with the latest rays of science, and to have collected and detailed all that was known which had reference to his work.

M. Poiteau declares "Smut" to be "a local disease, contagious by touch, and *not* a parasite plant." His arguments for and against his opinion are given at great length. We shall, in a concise manner, bring them before our readers; and, first, his reasons for deciding against the "mushroom" theory. When Smut was first declared to be a plant, the labors of the microscope, applied to botany, were very imperfect; matters were declared to be *uredos, erinees,* and *erysiphes,* which have since been discovered to be insects' nests, or tissular maladies to which the plant was subject. Hence it followed, that as microscopic botany became better known, these pretended plants gradually disappeared from the following editions of botanical works. Now these plants have been generally classed in the category as the Smut; and as these have been proved *not* to be of the mushroom race, so may Smut also. The opinions of some living agriculturists are cited by M. Poiteau, who consider Smut to be "an irritating humor, placed in the plant by the puncture of an insect, invisible on account of its smallness;" but he gives no proof that this can be the case; he only asserts that such is the opinion of men worthy of being listened to, from their experience and habits of observation. He brings forward the fact mentioned by Bose, who says, "a most remarkable thing is, that if the thick oil, which is taken from Smut by distilling it, by holding it over a hot fire, is placed in contact with sound corn, nearly a third of the ear will be affected with Smut." M. Poiteau maintains, that this is altogether inexplicable, unless Smut be contagious by touch; but even allowing this, it is no proof that the former opinions may not still be well-founded. M. Poiteau says, that every experiment tried by M. Philippar proves as much for the opinion that Smut is a disease, as that it is a parasite plant; but admitting this, M. Poiteau does not *prove* what he desires, namely, that his theory is correct. He also attacks M. Philappar's declaration, that Smut is propagated by seed; but we cannot find that he gives *proofs* that such is not the case. M. Poiteau very fairly cites against himself the *Memoire* of M. Benedict Prevost, at the Institute in 1806—in that paper he distinctly states, that he saw the Smut change its appearance and germinate. M. Poiteau asks, if that can be called germination which is nothing more than a change of form from round to oblong. "If," he goes on to say, "all changes which are seen in plants are taken for germination, every vegetable thing in nature should be deemed susceptible of germination." M. Poiteau gives M. Philippar great praise for his zeal and ability; but not the less insists that he is in error. We do not profess to give any opinion on the nature of Smut; we merely are anxious to lay before our readers the facts of the controversy. We must, however, declare, that we think M. Poiteau altogether fails to prove his position, that "Smut is a malady contagious by touch." He asserts boldly, and finds fault unhesitatingly; but he does not *give proofs.* We should much have preferred to see some hints given which might tend to remedy the evil. Smut does confessedly exist; and to be able to guard against its ravages would be a great blessing to the husbandman; but to enter into discussion as to the origin of the evil, without considering what are the best means of removing it, seems to us but of little practical utility. Any inquiry into the cause of Smut, or into its nature, can be profitable only inasmuch as we may, in our researches, discover the means of guarding against the devastation with which agriculture is so often cursed from it. If our neighbors, on the other side of the channel, would give us some hints bearing on this point, we should be more indebted to them than for their discussions on the origin of Smut. We conceive, however, that some good may arise from making known in this country what takes places respecting agricultural subjects in France; and for that reason have we referred to the above controversy. Perhaps, some of the experienced agriculturists of this country may be excited by it to give their view of the matter to the public. Should they do so, our article will not have been written in vain.—*Lond. Hort. Jour.*

BUTTER.

The business of making butter, for sale in the market, is a primary concern with a very large proportion of farmers who reside within a reasonable distance of towns or cities, and to obtain the best price for it, is, of course, an object of much importance in this money-making age of the world. Yet it is not a little surprising that, notwithstanding every body knows how to make butter, so small a proportion of what is taken to market commands the price of a first rate article. I think it may safely be said, that not one-fourth part of it can be assumed as first rate in quality, and, of course, much the larger part of it is sold at inferior prices. This, in many cases, must be ascribed to carelessness, inattention to neatness and cleanliness, and, perhaps, in many cases, to the impurities of the cellar or milk-house in which the milk or cream is kept. The atmosphere of the apartment where milk is kept, should be entirely pure and free from all contamination. No decaying vegetables, barrels of

fish, saurkraut, musty casks, or other articles which tend to render the air impure, ought to be permittek to remain in the same apartment with milk or cream. Fluids absorb the noxious vapors of the air in a remarkable degree. A pitcher of water being permitted to stand over night in a room where a segar has been smoked, in the morning will be found to be strongly impregnated with it.

It will be found to be impossible to make butter of good flavor, and of first rate quality, if the apartment in which the milk is set is not kept entirely free from all smell of what kind soever. It will receive a taint from foul air, of which it can never be divested, by any process whatever; therefore, if you desire to obtain the highest market price for your butter, keep your milk-houses and cellars as sweet and clean as your parlors, and let the exhibition of it in the market place be so perfectly neat and tidy as to attract the admiration of purchasers, and be sure never attempt to sell a pound of butter with a segar in your mouth.—*Far. Cabinet.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

AND GARDENER'S JOURNAL.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1838.

INDIAN CORN.

SUCKERING, TOPPING STALKS, HARVESTING.

(continued.)

When the corn throughout the field is completely glazed, so that from partial examination you cannot find an ear that is fit to be roasted and the kernels seem all to be touched, then proceed into the field with several hands to cut up the plants at the bottom. A sickle will answer for this purpose; or a knife made from the end of an old scythe attached to a short wooden handle. As the corn is cut keep it in your arms and do not allow it to be laid on the ground until sufficient is collected by yourself and those at work with you to form a good sized shock. Bring it next round a strong standing hill, or if necessary form a support for the shock by bringing the tops of two standing hills together; and around this support make your shock; bring the tops of the corn, which you have cut round it, and spread the bottoms widely for the free admission and circulation of the air; then with a band of rye straw tie the tops of all firmly together round these hills which are left standing. The corn must not be first tied in bundles as is frequently done, as in this case it is not likely to dry so well; and the ears frequently become mouldy, especially if damp weather follows; besides that when they are thus tied in small bundles the ears cannot be well reached in the husking and are liable to be missed, unless the bundle is untied, which is a great trouble. The hills which are left standing form a very useful support for the corn that is placed against them, and the shocks otherwise are liable to fall or be blown down. When the corn is sufficiently dry to be harvested proceed then to cut off the standing hill; the shock or stook then remains firmly bound by the band of straw at the top; and in this form is easily pitched upon the cart. When the corn is husked it is only for the husker to place the top of a shock or stook in his lap, and every ear is found at once and without difficulty. When this whole operation is well and properly performed we are satisfied that there is a considerable saving of labor in curing the fodder; that the whole fodder is saved in a much better condition; and that the grain itself becomes equally ripe, sound, and heavy, as if suffered to remain until it is "dead-ripe" in the field. The fodder it-elf is more succulent and much better; and in truth, in respect to all parts of it, which are eatable, is as nutritious a food as can be given to live stock, either neat cattle, horses, or sheep.

In the event of the prospect of an early frost the crop in this way would often be saved, when otherwise it might be ruined; as there is no danger from frost after the corn has been cut and shocked twentyfour hours. Another advantage from this management is that it enables you to remove your corn much earlier from your field so as to have opportunity to prepare the ground for another crop, as where this is desirable the shocks of corn can be placed at the sides of the ploughed land. There is however an important suggestion to be made here. Where the shocks are placed at the sides of the field upon grass ground, there is danger that the grass will check the circulation of air under the shocks, and neither the grain nor the stalks will ripen well. The stalks too are liable to become mouldy at the bottom.

There is every prospect, let us be thankful to a kind Providence, of an abundant crop of corn the present season. The fields were never more luxuriant and beautiful. With the exception of some particular articles in particular situations, and what may at present be called fancy articles, such as beets for sugar and the silk cultivation, Indian Corn must be set down as the great crop for New England. We are fast departing to our very great injury from the good old fashions of Indian bread and Johnny cake. It is hoped we shall presently learn what is for our health and interest, and come back again. There is no more nutritious or healthy bread than that which is furnished by this rich gift of Heaven. Massachusetts alone can, and we have no hesitation in saying, ought to raise her three million bushels per year.

WHOLESOME DRINK FOR WARM WEATHER.—Take a two gallon stone jug and fill it with cold water. Put into this water a quart of oat meal; and shake it well. In half an hour it will furnish a pleasant, nutritious and excellent beverage. We know a farmer, who cuts ordinarily one hundred tons of hay. This is the only drink in the field for himself and his hands. He says he desires nothing better and he can find nothing more acceptable and useful to his laborers. Molasses and water and small beer are liable to be drank in too large quantities and have a tendency to disorder the stomach. Cold water is excellent, but may be taken too cold and in too great quantities; and laborers in general want something different. Cider is inflammatory and iritating and stupefying. Ardent spirit is almost done with among respectable and decent people. Who wishes to be possessed of a devil?

For the New England Farmer.

MR EDITOR—It has been a subject of surprise to me, for some time past, that with all the ingenuity for which the Yankees are so celebrated especially when a profit may be expected, no one has as yet in this part of the country (nor I believe in any part of the United States) ever introduced to our tables an article common in various parts of the world, viz: Capons. It may not be known to the great mass of your readers that in the West Indies and several parts of the old countries, a Capon is considered a great luxury and readily commands a much higher price than a chicken of the same age. They are apparently easily raised, grow to a large size, (say from 8 to 10 lbs.) and range together in flocks, never showing any disposition to fight each other. The writer sees no reason why they cannot be introduced here, with profit to the raiser, and regrets his inability to furnish the information necessary to perform the required operation. The annexed from the Albany Cultivator of this month, is all that he can find any where on the subject, and as it does not go so fully into the "Modus Operandi," as could be desired, the writer is induced to request the insertion of this communication in your valuable journal, in the hope that it may meet the eye of some one of your intelligent correspondents, who will give through your columns, a full account, as to how this matter should be done, when the proper age, how the animal should be fed, &c. and thereby oblige at least *one* young farmer. NORFOLK.

July, 1838.

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CAPONS—"To Capon Cocks make an incision with a sharp knife under the lowest rib; with your fingers lay hold of the parts to be extirpated, and cut them away with sharp scissors.

Put a stitch or two into the wound.—*Albany Cultivator for July*, 1838.

For the New England Farmer.

THE WAY TO MAKE GOOD BUTTER IN AUGUST.—Salt the milk before you strain it, at the rate of a heaped spoon of salt to a pail-full. Let it stand 24 or at most 36 hours. The first pan of milk you skim, put another heaped spoon of salt to the cream; add cream from day to day as you skim your milk. Churn three times a week or at least twice. Use a stone churn if you can conveniently obtain one. Set your churn in a pail of the coldest water, and change it as it grows warm by standing while you churn. Keep your cream in white earthen or a wooden bowl. It is injurious to health to use brown earthen ware for any thing salt or acid. These directions are for a small dairy of one or two cows.

A HOUSEKEEPER.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

Saturday, July 28, 1838.

Peaches.—Beautiful specimens by M. P. Wilder of this city, from his garden in Portland, raised under glass.

Gooseberries.—Jos. T. Buckingham, 2 boxes good.

William Meller of Roxbury, 2 boxes, Jolly Printer, Champagne, &c. all of fine kinds.

George Newhall of Dorchester, 4 boxes of large and fine.

William Kenrick, 3 boxes do.

Raspberries.—Dr. J. C. Howard from his garden at the Woodlands, Brookline; Franconia and White Antwerp; fine specimens.

Currants.—A. D. Williams from his garden in Roxbury, 4 boxes Dutch White and 4 boxes of Dutch Red, all of the finest quality.

William Meller, a box of Red and a box of White Dutch Currants, fine.

Honey.—Andrew P. Young, offered for exhibition a globular glass vessel, quite filled with pure honey, during 4 weeks from his yard in Hanover street and weighing 16 lbs.

For the Committee,

WILLIAM KENRICK, *Chairman.*

SINGULAR EVENT.—As two men were cradling wheat, near Milford, Del. during a thunder storm, a portion of the electric fluid struck the scythe of one, and glancing off, killed his companion.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, July 30, 1838.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 250 Beef Cattle, 100 Stores, 20 Cows and calves, 2050 Sheep, and 130 Swine. About 50 Swine were reported last week. 60 Beef Cattle remain unsold.

Prices —*Beef Cattle.*—Sales were dull and prices declined considerable. We quote, First quality $7 25 a $7 50. Second quality $6 75 a $7 00. Third quality, $6 00 a $6 25.

Stores —A very few sales only effected, purchasers refusing to pay the prices asked.

Cows and Calves.—Sales were noticed at $24, $28, $32, $35 and $40.

Sheep.—Dull, and sales something less than last week for a like quality. Lots were taken at $1 50, $1 67, $1 75, $1 92 and $2 12. Wethers at $2 25, $2 50, and $2 75.

Swine.—We noticed the sale of one lot to peddle, but did not learn the price.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending July 29.

July, 1838.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	23	64	72	68	S. W.
Tuesday,	24	58	68	62	W.
Wednesday,	25	60	70	64	S. E.
Thursday,	26	56	72	66	E.
Friday,	27	64	84	76	N. E.
Saturday,	28	70	92	84	S.
Sunday,	29	72	88	80	W.

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES, MULBERRIES, &c.

Nursery of William Kenrick.

The Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees for 1838 is now ready, and will be sent to all who apply. It comprises a most extensive selection of the superior varieties of Pears, Apples, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Quinces, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Currants, Strawberries, Grape Vines, &c. The stock of Cherries and Peaches now ready is particularly large. Also, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Honeysuckles; Pæonies, Dahlias and other Herbaceous Flowering Plants.

225,000 Morus Multicaulis are now offered for sale; the trees genuine and fine, will be ready for delivery at the cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, in October next, at fair prices, and varying with the size, and the quantity which may be desired. Also, Broussa and other varieties.

Mulberry and other trees, when so ordered, will be securely packed for safe transportation to distant places, and all orders promptly executed, on application to B. D. Breck, Commission Store, No. 132 Water Street, New York, M. S. Pcwell, Seed Store, No. 7 Arch Street, Philadelphia, or to the subscriber, Nonantum Hill, Newton, near Boston.

August 1, 1838. WILLIAM KENRICK.

FOR SALE.

A two years old Bull of the Cream pot breed; from Mr Jaqueth's stock at Ten Hill Farm, Charlestown. Cows of the above breed make the most butter of any stock in this country. Inquire of the subscriber near the factories in Waltham. ISAAC PARKER.

FOR SALE.

A Ram and Ewe from the Cape Good Hope. Inquire at this office.

REVOLVING HORSE RAKE.

The Revolving Rake, which has been in general use in most parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is found to be one of the most useful and labor saving machines now in use. One man and horse will rake on an average, from fifteen to twenty acres per day, with ease, and do the work well, it not being necessary to stop the horse to unload. They are coming into very general use in all parts of the country, and will, no doubt, in a few years, supercede the use of the common hand rake. For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The Rooms of the Masachusetts Horticultural Society, 23 Tremont Row, are open for the public every Saturday morning, from 10 till 12 o'clock.

NEW ELEMENTARY WORK ON BOTANY.

Peter Parley's Botany; with descriptions of Trees, Shrubs and Plants; with a large number of fine engravings.

The publishers invite Teachers, and others interested in this subject, to examine this work, as they believe it will be found one of the most practically useful in use, being a complete manual of Botany for the adult and the pupil.

Parley's Cyclopedia of Botany.—This work appears to be exactly what is wanted by young persons and in families. It not only contains the strictly scientific part of the subject, in an introduction and very full and complete genera of Plants, but it also contains a copious glossary of terms, and what is most important, a Dictionary of Plants, of nearly 300 pages, containing familiar descriptions of all the most interesting trees, plants, and shrubs.—These are alphabetically arranged, with an English index, so that the reader may immediately turn to any plant he wishes to read about. The work is illustrated by over 200 engravings, and is sold very cheap.—*Boston Paper.*

For sale at the New England Farmer Office, 51 & 52 North Market Street. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

COUNTRY SEAT IN NEWTON, FOR SALE.

The subscriber offers for sale the house in which he now resides, with the Barn, Sheds, Garden and about 35 acres of land situated on Nonantum Hill, in Newton, 5 1-2 miles from the city. The garden occupies nearly two acres, is stocked with a great variety of fruit tress, and abont 10,000 Antwerp Raspberry Vines. The place may be seen and further particulars obtained on application at the premises.

L. A. WHEELRIGHT.

July 16th.

SCYTHES AND RAKES.

Just received at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, a complete assortment of Garden and Field Tools, consisting in part of

100 dozen Hall's Rakes, superior.
100 do. Wilder & Eddy's, do.
200 do. Common do.
25 do. English Cast Steel Grass Scythes.
10 do. do. do. Cradle do.
10 do. do. do. Border do.
100 do. Round Scythe Stones.
100 do. Square do.
100 do. Cast Steel Garden Hoes.
100 pair Grass Shears.
100 do. Pruning do.
100 do. Fruit do.
50 dozen Patent Sheep Shears.
20 do. Pruning do.
20 do. do. Saws.
25 do. Budding Knives.
25 do. Pruning do.
20 do. Edging do.
25 do. Breaking up Hoes.
100 do. Garden do.
50 do. Dutch do.
20 do. Bill and Brier Hooks.
10 do. Grass do.
50 do. Garden Rakes.
500 pair Chains, for tying up cattle.
500 do. Trace Chains.
25 dozen Halter do.

—ALSO—

300 dozen Patent Scythe Snaiths, superior.
100 do. Cast Steel and other Shovels.
1000 do. Rifles, 500 do. Scythe Stones.

June 27, 1837.

ALDERNEY STOCK FOR SALE.

For sale a full blooded Bull, 3 years old the first of July next—one Cow, five years old—and a Heifer three years old. The Cows are said to be the richest Milkers of any imported. For further particulars address L. M. WHEATON, Norton, Mass., or a line left at this office, will meet with prompt attention. June 27

FOR SALE OR TO LET.

A pleasant and convenient house in complete repair situated on the Worcester Turnpike, 5 1-2 miles from Boston and 2 miles from Brighton market. The house contain contains 9 large rooms, and has a barn, chaise house and sheds attached. Also, with the same, 3 acres of mowing and tillage land and 1 1-2 acres wood land. An adjoining lot of 5 acres can be had, if desired. Three quarters of the purchase money can remain upon a mortgage. If not sold, the house will be let to a good tenant. Enquire of D. HOLBROOK

No. 51 Court St. Boston, or on the premises.

June 13, 1838,

SITUATION WANTED,

As Gardener, by a young man of practical knowledge and can be well recommended. A Situation West or South would be preferred. Address R. B. through the office of this paper.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

			FROM	TO
Apples,		barrel		
Beans, white, Foreign,		bushel	1 25	1 50
" " Domestic,		"	2 25	2 50
Beef, mess,		barrel	14 50	
No. 1.		"	12 00	12 25
prime,		"	10 00	11 00
Beeswax, (American)		pound	28	34
Cheese, new milk,		"	6	10
Feathers, northern, geese,		"		
southern, geese,		"	37	45
Flax, (American)		"	9	12
Fish, Cod,		quintal	3 60	3 70
Flour, Genessee, cash,		barrel	7 00	7 25
Baltimore, Howard street,		"	7 12	7 25
Baltimore, wharf,		"	7 00	7 12
Alexandria,		"	7 12	7 25
Rye,		"	4 50	5 00
Meal, Indian, in hogsheads,				
" " barrels,			3 50	3 75
Grain: Corn, northern yellow,		bushel		
southern flat, yellow,		"	69	71
white,		"	67	68
Rye, northern,		"	80	85
Barley,		"		
Oats, northern, (prime)		"	33	35
Hay, best English, per ton of 2000 lbs.				16 00
Eastern screwed,			12 00	14 00
Honey, Cuba,		gallon	50	52
Hops, 1st quality,		pound	7	8
2d quality,		"	5	6
Lard, Boston, 1st sort,		"	9	10
southern, 1st sort,		"	9	10
Leather, Philadelphia city tannage,		"	26	27
do. country do.		"	20	22
Baltimore city tannage,		"	25	26
do. dry hides,		"		
New York red, light,		"	18	19
Boston, do. slaughter,		"	19	20
Boston dry hides,		"	17	19
Lime, best sort,		cask	80	85
Mackerel, No. 1, new,		barrel		
Plaster Paris, per ton of 2200 lbs.		cask	2 37	2 50
Pork, extra clear,		barrel	23 00	24 00
clear,		"	22 00	23 00
Mess,		"	20 00	21 00
Seeds: Herd's Grass,		bushel	2 63	3 00
Red Top, southern,		"	80	1 00
northern,		"		
Hemp,		pound	2 62	3 00
Red Clover, northern,		"		18
Southern Clover,		"	17	18
Soap, American, No. 1,		"	6	7
" No. 2,		"	5	6
Tallow, tried,		"	10	11
Teazles, 1st sort,		pr M.	3 00	3 50
Wool, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,		pound	50	53
American, full blood, washed,		"	45	48
do. 3-4ths do.		"	42	45
do. 1-2 do.		"	38	40
do. 1-4 and common,		"	35	37
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,		"	42	48
No. 1,		"	38	40
No. 2,		"	28	30
No. 3,		"		

PROVISION MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.

Hams, northern,	pound	13	14
southern and western,	"	10	12
Pork, whole hogs,	"	9	10
Poultry, per pair,	"	62	1 00
Butter, tub,	"	16	22
lump,	"	20	25
Eggs,	dozen	16	20
Potatoes, chenango,	bushel	30	50
Cider,	barrel	2 75	3 00

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MISCELLANEOUS.

PUTTING A BOY TO SCHOOL.

The following sketch, drawn as it is to the life, we commend to our readers for its dry and sober humor.

Mr Squeers was standing in a box by one of the coffee-room fire-places, fitted with one such table as is usually seen in coffee-rooms, and two of extraordinary shapes and dimensions made to suit the angles of the partition. In a corner of the seat was a very small deal trunk, tied round with a scanty piece of cord; and on the trunk was perched —his lace-up half-boots and corduroy trowsers dangling in the air—a diminuitive boy, with his shoulders drawn up to his ears, and his hands planted on his knees, who glanced timidly at the schoolmaster from time to time with evident dread and apprehension.

'Half past three,' muttered Mr Squeers, turning from the window, and looking sulkily at the coffee-room clock. 'There will be nobody here to-day.'

Here the little boy on the top of the trunk gave a violent sneeze.

'Halloo, sir!' growled the school-master, turning round. 'What's that, Sir?'

'Nothing, please Sir,' replied the little boy.

'Nothing, Sir!' replied Mr Squeers.

'Please Sir, I sneezed,' rejoined the boy, trembling till the little trunk shook under him.

'Oh! sneezed, did you?' retorted Mr Squeers. 'Then what did you say 'nothing, for, Sir?'

In default of a better answer to this question, the little boy screwed a couple of knuckles into each of his eyes and began to cry, wherefore, Mr Squeers knocked him off the trunk with a blow on one side of his face, and knocked him on again with a blow on the other.

'Wait till I get you down into Yorkshire, my young gentleman,' said Mr Squeers, 'and then I'll give you the rest. 'Will you hold that noise, Sir?'

'Ye—ye—yes,' sobbed the little boy, rubbing his face very hard with the Beggar's Petition in printed calico.

'Then do so at once, Sir,' said Squeers. 'Do you hear?'

'Mr Squeers,' said the waiter, looking in at this juncture; 'here's a gentleman asking for you at the bar.'

'Show the gentleman in, Richard,' replied Mr Squeers, in a soft voice. 'Put your handkerchief in your pocket, you little scoundrel, or I'll murder you when the gentleman goes.'

The schoolmaster had scarcely uttered these words in a fierce whisper, when the stranger entered. Affecting not to see him, Mr Squeers feigned to be intent upon mending a pen, and offering benevolent advice to his youthful pupil.

'My dear child,' said Mr Squeers, 'all people have their trials. This early trial of yours that is fit to make your little heart burst, and your very eyes come out of your head with crying, what is it? Nothing; less than nothing. You are leaving your friends, but you will have a father in me, my dear, and a mother in Mrs Squeers. At the delightful village of Dotheboys, near Greta Bridge, in Yorkshire, where youth are boarded, clothed, booked, washed, furnished with pocket-money, provided with all necessaries——'

'It *is* the gentleman,' observed the stranger, stopping the schoolmaster in the rehearsal of his advertisement. 'Mr Squeers, I believe, Sir?'

'The same, Sir,' said Mr Squeers, with an assumption of extreme surprise.

'I am in the oil and color way. My name is Snawley, Sir,' said the stranger.

Squeers inclined his head as much as to say, 'And a remarkable pretty name, too.'

The stranger continued. 'I have been thinking, Mr Squeers, of placing my two boys at your school.'

'It is not for me to say so, Sir,' replied Mr Squeers, 'but Idon't think you could possibly do a better thing.'

'Hem!' said the other. 'Twenty pounds per annewum, I believe, Mr Squeers?'

'Guineas,' rejoined the schoolmaster, with a persuasive smile.

'Pounds for two, I think, Mr Squeers,' said Mr Snawley solemnly.

'I don't think it could be done, Sir,' replied Squeers, as if he had never considered the proposition before. 'Let me see; four fives is twenty, double that, and deduct the—well, a pound either way shall not stand betwixt us. You must recommend me to your connection, Sir, and make it up that way.'

'They are not great eaters,' said Mr Snawley.

'Oh! that doesn't matter at all,' replied Squeers. 'We don't consider the boys' appetites at our establishment.' This was strictly true; they did not.

'I should wish their morals to be particularly attended to,' said Mr Snawley.

'I am glad of that, Sir,' replied the schoolmaster, drawing himself up. 'They have come to the right shop for morals, Sir.'

'You are a moral man yourself,' said Mr Snawley.

'I rather believe I am, Sir,' replied Squeers.

'I have the satisfaction to know you are, Sir,' said Mr Snawley. 'I asked one of your references, and he said you were pious.'

'Well, Sir, I hope I am a little in that way,' replied Squeers.

'I hope I am also,' rejoined the other. 'Could I say a few words with you in the next box?'

'By all means,' rejoined Squeers, with a grin. 'My dears, will you speak to your new playfellow a minute or two? That is one of my boys, Sir.—Belling his name is,—a Taunton boy that, Sir.'

'Is he indeed?' replied Mr Snawley, looking at the poor little urchin as if he were some extraordinary natural curiosity.

'He goes down with me to-morrow, Sir,' said Squeers. 'That's his luggage that he is sitting upon now. Each boy is required to bring, Sir, two suits of clothes, six shirts, six pair of stockings, two night-caps, two pocket-handkerchiefs, two pair of shoes, two hats, and a razor.'

'A razor!' exclaimed Mr Snawley, as they walked in the next box. 'What for?'

'To shave with,' replied Squeers, in a slow and measured tone.

There was not much in these three words, but there must have been something in the manner in which they were said, to attract attention, for the schoolmaster and his companion looked steadily at each other for a few seconds, and then exchanged a very meaning smile.

'Up to what age do you keep boys at your school then?' he asked at length.

'Just as long as their friends make the quarterly payments to my agent in town, or until such time as they run away,' replied Squeers, 'Let us understand each other; I see we may safely do so. What are these boys;—natural children?'

'No,' rejoined Snawley, meeting the gaze of the schoolmaster's one eye. 'They an't.'

'I thought they might be,' said Squeers coolly. 'We have a good many of them; that boy's one.

'Him in the next box,' said Snawley.

Squeers nodded in the affirmative, and his companion took another peep at the boy on the trunk, and turning round again, looked as if he were quite disappointed to see him so much like other boys, and said he should hardly have thought it.

'He is,' cried Squeers. 'But about these boys of yours; you wanted to speak to me?'

'Yes,' replied Snawley. 'The fact is, I am not their father, Mr Squeers. I'm only their father-in-law.'

'Oh!' is that it?' said the schoolmaster. 'That explains it at once. I was wondering what the devil you were going to send them to Yorkshire for. Ha! ha! Oh, I understand now.'

'You see I have married the mother,' pursued Snawley; 'it's expensive keeping boys at home, and as she has a little money in her own right, I am afraid (women are so very foolish, Mr Squeers) that she might be led to squander it on them, which would be their ruin, you know.'

'I see' returned Squeers, throwing himself back in his chair, and waving his hand.

'And this,' returned Snawley, 'has made me anxious to put them to some school a good distance off, where there are no holidays—none of those ill-judged comings home twice a year that unsettle children's minds so—and where they may rough it a little—you comprehend?'

'The payments regular, and no questions asked,' said Squeers, nodding his head.

'That's it, exactly,' rejoined the other. 'Morals strictly attended to, though.'

'Strictly,' said Squeers.

'Not too much writing home allowed, I suppose?' said the father-in-law, hesitating.

'None, except a circular at Christmas, to say that they never were so happy, and hope they may never be sent for,' rejoined Squeers.

'Nothing could be better,' said the father-in-law, rubbing his hands.

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Dr Coffin,
Dr Pilsbury,
Dr Physic,
Dr Toothaker,
Dr Slaughter,
Dr Kilham, pronounced Kill 'em.

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